

Cohen, Dippell and Everist, P.C.

Before The
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of

Authorizing Permissive Use of the
"Next Generation" Broadcast Television
Standard

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GN Docket No. 16-142

Reply Comments
on Behalf of
COHEN, DIPPELL AND EVERIST, P.C.

These reply comments are submitted on behalf of Cohen, Dippell and Everist, P.C. ("CDE"). CDE and its predecessors have practiced before the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") for over 75 years in broadcast and telecommunications matters. The firm or its predecessors have been located in Washington, DC since 1937 and performed professional consulting engineering services to the communications industry.

The undersigned is licensed as a Professional Engineer in the District of Columbia and has been in continuous employment with this firm or its predecessors for over fifty (50) years.

This firm has read many of the comments filed in the proceeding. Most comments address the various legal issues that arise. This firm offers no opinion on those issues but notes that ATSC 3.0 will be the third scenario (the first--conversion to ATSC 1.0 and the second Incentive Auction repack for most stations) in which the off-the-air viewer will be subject to a disruption. This firm is of the opinion that there are more off-the-air viewers than shown in any of the recent surveys. The broadcast (AM, FM and TV) stations provide a very valuable service

in the times of uncertainty--whether natural disaster such as storms or other. As noted in this firm's comments in MB Docket 13-249¹, the following has been abstracted in part.

"This ability to communicate with the general public includes periods with President Roosevelt's fireside chats, announcement concerning Pearl Harbor through Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy. During the Dericho - Washington, DC area, Verizon service failed for many hours (if not days). According to the statement by ranking member Frank Pallone, Jr., Congressman from New Jersey, indicated in a hearing that 40% of the New Jersey cell phone service was unavailable during Hurricane Sandy to the New Jersey general public."²

"This need again will occur whether it's a terrorist or weather event and while many new communication avenues are now available none of these newly inaugurated social media systems, to our knowledge, can operate for extended periods of time under no public power conditions."

"There even could be an unimagined catastrophe such as power grid failure."³

"Given the current terrorist climate or the recent North Korean pronouncement, the prospect of a massive communication/power outage is real and present."⁴ The weather bureau implemented a new 1.2 billion dollar computer system but missed the recent forecast which resulted in cars being stranded on the Washington beltway for over 10 hours. The question arises how did these newly inaugurated so-called media systems assist the general Washington, D.C. commuters and other traveling public?"

¹"In the Matter of Revitalization of the AM Radio Service" entitled, "First Report and Order, Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Notice of Inquiry, Adopted: October 21, 2015".

²Testimony by the FCC Chairman Wheeler at the hearing before House Communications Subcommittee oversight on November 17, 2015 which provide details of 17 mysterious cuts to fibre links in and around the San Francisco bay, California area.

³Articles are entitled, "Securing the Electric Grid", "U.S. Risks National Blackout from Small Scale Attack", and "DARPA Exploring Ways to Protect Nation's Electrical Grid from Cyber Attack".

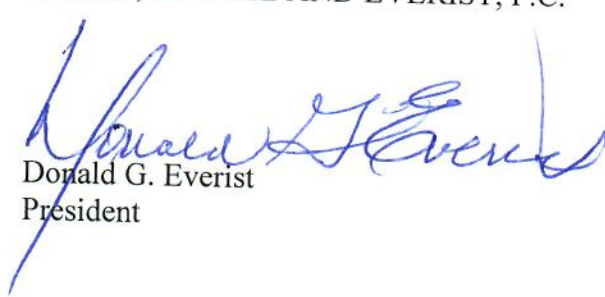
⁴Ibid.

The point we wish to make is that the United States is not immune to terrorists assaults or a confrontation by North Korea's threat of major proportion. Off-the-air television can help to fill that communications vacuum.

Therefore, this firm urges the Commission to subject the ATSC 3.0 transition that will be made available to the off-the-air viewer be more robust than ATSC 1.0 so that no matter the circumstance, the off-the-air viewer will be able to access critical and timely information.

Respectfully Submitted,

COHEN, DIPPELL AND EVERIST, P.C.



Donald G. Everist
President

DATE: June 8, 2017